

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 20-28 and 48-110 remain in this application. Claims 20, 25, 26, 27, 48, 59-63, 65, 67, 68, 70, 74-76, 78-79, 81-85, 87, 89, 90, 92, 96-100, 102, 104, 105, and 107 have been amended.

II. ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The Office Action has withdrawn Claims 59-108 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicant has amended Claims 59-108 to be directed to an invention originally claimed. Claims 59-108 are directed to storage and retrieval of input signals as in original Claims 1-58. Claims 59-108 have been further amended to include using recorded program list. In addition, Claims 20-28 and 48-58 have been amended to include using identification signal for accessing frames. Therefore, Claims 59-108 are directed to an invention originally claimed and should not be withdrawn from consideration.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected Claims 20-28 and 48-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Browne et al. (WO 92/22983) in view of Akiba et al. (6,542,695) and Logan et al.(5,371,551). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 20 and 48 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention and appear as follows:

20. A process for a digital video recorder, comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of multimedia programs in digital form on a storage device;

displaying a list of previously recorded multimedia programs stored on said storage device to a user;

wherein the user selects previously recorded multimedia programs from said list;

simultaneously playing back at least one of said selected previously recorded multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage is in progress to at least one display device using identifying information generated by the digital video recorder for at least one video segment in said at least one of said selected previously recorded multimedia programs and identifying information generated by the digital video recorder for at least one video segment in said multimedia program whose storage is in progress; and

wherein said playing back step allows playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually and simultaneously to perform any of: fast forward, rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions.

48. An apparatus for a digital video recorder, comprising:

a module for storing a plurality of multimedia programs in digital form on a storage device;

a module for displaying a list of previously recorded multimedia programs stored on said storage device to a user;

wherein the user selects previously recorded multimedia programs from said list;

a module for simultaneously playing back at least one of said selected previously recorded multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage is in progress to at least one display device using identifying information generated by the digital video recorder for at least one video segment in said at least one of said selected previously recorded multimedia programs and identifying information generated by the digital video recorder for at least one video segment in said multimedia program whose storage is in progress; and

wherein said playing back module allows playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually and simultaneously to perform any of: fast forward, rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions.

Neither Browne, nor Akiba, nor Logan teach or describe a system that simultaneously plays back at least one of said selected previously recorded multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage is in progress to at least one display device using identifying information generated by the digital video recorder for at least one video segment in said at least one of said selected previously recorded multimedia programs and identifying information generated by the digital video recorder for at least one video segment in said multimedia program whose storage is in progress as cited in Claims 20 and 48. Neither reference mentions and therefore do not contemplate such features.

Further, the Office Action states: "However, it is noted that providing a control mean for each multimedia program to be controlled individually and simultaneously to perform one of: fast forward, and rewind frame step, pause, and play functions is well known in the art as taught by Logan (column 5, lines 30 to column 6, line 15)."

Applicant respectfully disagrees that providing such a control mean for each multimedia program to be controlled individually and simultaneously is well known in the art as taught by Logan. Logan does not disclose that playback rate and direction of each multimedia program to be controlled individually and simultaneously to perform any of: fast forward, rewind, frame step, pause, and play functions as cited in Claims 20 and 48. Logan does not contemplate the complexity of performing such a task. Logan only deals with a single circular buffer and does not contemplate the complexity of individually and simultaneously controlling playback rate and direction of at least one of said selected previously recorded multimedia programs and a multimedia program whose storage is in progress while each multimedia program is simultaneously played back to at least one display device. Therefore, what the Office Action posits is not well known in the art as taught by Logan. Modifying Browne with Logan as the Office Action suggests would result in Browne's invention being able to perform pause, replay, slow/fast motion, and reverse on only a single output using a single circular buffer.

Therefore, Browne in view of Akiba and Logan does not teach or disclose the invention as claimed.

Claims 20 and 48 are in allowable condition. Claims 21-28, 57, and 49-56, 58 are dependent upon independent Claims 20 and 48, respectively. Independent Claims 59, 67, 70, 74, 81, 89, 92, 96, 104, and 107 are similarly allowable. Claims 60-66, and 68-69, and 71-73, and 75-80, and 82-88, and 90-91, and 93-95, and 97-103, and 105-106, and

108-110 are dependent upon independent Claims 59, 67, 70, 74, 81, 89, 92, 96, 104, and 107, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. Entry of the amendments herein and further examination on the merits are respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1080 ext. 214 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this Reply to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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